President Will Not Be Able To Reclaim Donated Papers

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WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon cannot reclaim the pre-presidential papers he donated to the National Archives even though a tax deduction for them has been disallowed, the General Service Administration said Friday.

The White House promptly said it always has been Nixon's contention that a valid gift had been made. A Dallas group said it had been informed the President had refused its offer to buy his vice presidential papers.

A spokesman for GSA, parent agency of the National Archives, said his agency considered the gift legally binding. The spokesman said, however, that the President probably would be free to sell or otherwise dispose of other Nixon papers and memorabilia being stored at the National Archives but not included in the deeds donating some of his papers to the government.

The tax issue revolved around the question whether Nixon made the gift before a July 1969 cutoff for taking federal income tax deductions for such donations. Therefore, said the GSA spokesman, the GSA considers the tax ruling irrelevant to the question of whether the papers now belong to the government.

As for the other Nixon papers stored in the Archives, Nixon will be free to reclaim them barring any other legal impediment, the GSA spokesman said.

At least two private groups in recent days have offered to help Nixon meet his $467,000 bill for back taxes by purchasing some of his papers. Asked about this Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren said he knew nothing about the offers.

Another White House official said the President has not yet addressed the question of how he will raise the money for overdue 1969-72 taxes.

The remainder consist of documents collected between 1948 and 1962, including some newspaper clippings.

The congressional Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation looked into Nixon's federal tax returns at his request after questions had been raised. He promised to abide by its decision.